

Native American Curriculum Initiative Lessons

These lessons have been carefully written in order to honor and respect each tribal nation's wishes.

Published Lessons - Approved by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

[Coyote Steals Fire](#) - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier

- Learn about the history and culture of the northwestern Shoshone people.
- Paint a watercolor landscape of an environment with Utah wildlife.

[I Love the Mountains -- Damen Doiya](#) - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg

- Compare and contrast two songs.
- Identify Utah's three main geographic regions.
- Learn about the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation.

[Northwestestern Shoshone Fish Song](#) (Pengwi bai Anoga) - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg

- Sing a Northwestern Shoshone song.
- Write a narrative story about an experience in nature.
- Create music compositions patterned after the song.

[Railroad Meter](#) - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg

- Conduct songs in different meters.
- Research and present about historical songs with connections to the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Compare and contrast cultural groups impacted by the railroad.

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

[Paiute Alphabet Song](#) - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg and Eliza Een

- Play a game to compare and contrast the Southern Paiute and English languages.
- Explore beat and rhythm.
- Sing the "ABC Song" and learn the "Paiute Alphabet Song."

[Paiute Federal Recognition and Sovereignty](#) - Drama lesson by Hayley Anderson and Emily Soderborg

- Through process drama activities, explore the history of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.
- Explore losing and regaining federal recognition.
- Work in collaborative groups.

[Paiute Storied Rocks](#) - Music Lesson by Emily Soderborg and Eliza Een

- Read Paiute picture writing and learn some Native American universal sign language.
- Compose a new song by rearranging parts of a familiar tune.
- Compare the English and Southern Paiute languages.

[Paiute Symbols and Logos](#) - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier, Eliza Een, and Emily Soderborg

- Learn about signs, symbols, petroglyphs, and pictographs.
- Understand the meaning behind the logos of the five Paiute bands.
- Create a personal logo through printmaking.

[Why the Moon Paints Her Face Black](#) - Visual arts lesson by Chris Roberts and Brenda Beyal

- Listen and respond to a Paiute story.
- Explore art making, using chalk or crayons.
- Create a project depicting one of the scenes in the book.

General Tribes of Utah

[Native American Round Dance](#) - Dance lesson by Brenda Beyal and Chris Roberts

- Explore the traditional Native American Round Dance.
- Invite a Native American to share proper Round Dance steps.
- Compare and contrast beats of various Round Dance songs.

[The Great American Bison](#) - Visual arts lesson by Brenda Beyal

- Understand the impact of the Transcontinental Railroad on American bison herds.
- Compare and contrast differing perspectives.
- Upcycle found objects into artwork.

In Process

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

The Greedy Porcupine - Drama lesson by Lisa Bean and Emily Soderborg

- Explore a Northwestern Shoshone tale through a reader's theatre.
- Convey meaning using voice, facial expressions, gestures, and instruments.
- Develop fluency and further enhance comprehension.

Tipi Making - Visual arts lesson by Tanner Weyland, Brenda Beyal, and Rachel Gonthier

Coyote Steals Fire - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Utah Environment Through the Eyes of the Paiute - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

- Learn about Utah environments through dance.
- Use a Paiute Beliefs narrative to understand human relationship with the environment.
- Learn several Native American signs used to describe animals and landforms.

Navajo Nation

Navajo Rug/Geometric Design - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Navajo Weaving - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier, Adalyn Gaston, and Brenda Beyal

Shí naashá - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg

Navajo Basket Weaving - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier

Navajo Landscape through Photography - Media arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier and Eugene Tapahe

Fry Bread - Music lesson by Jennifer Purdy

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute

Pia Toya - Visual arts lesson by Brenda Beyal and Rachel Gonthier

- Read the book Pia Toya
- Become familiar with how mountains are formed.
- Learn a chalk pastel technique.
- Create a landscape.

General Tribes of Utah

Native American Tribes in Utah - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Indianization of Lewis and Clark - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier